

July 16, 2004

Chairman Michael K. Powell  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: WC Docket No. 03-133

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing to add my voice to the growing number of groups and individuals opposed to efforts by the local Bell telephone companies to circumvent current rules on calls placed with a pre-paid calling card. If they succeed, it will result in higher rates -- in many cases, dramatically higher rates -- for consumers who place the calls. As you approach your work on this docket, I implore you to keep the needs of consumers in mind rather than the pleadings of the four Bell companies.

The Bell companies want to target those calls in which a caller uses a pre-paid calling card and dials a toll-free number, along with his or her PIN. The caller, who may be in Virginia, for example, is connected to a "platform" in another state -- let's say in Nebraska. From this "platform," he or she hears a message about a company, non-profit or person. The caller then dials the telephone number of someone in Virginia. Current rules, as well as common sense, state that this represents two calls, one from Virginia to Nebraska and one from Nebraska to Virginia. Both calls are subject to interstate access charges because there is a call to Nebraska and then a separate call to Virginia.

But the Bell companies want to treat this as a single in-state call so they can levy exorbitant in-state access charges. Such fees have no relationship whatsoever to the Bell companies' actual costs, which are only a fraction of what they want to charge consumers.

Prices are already rising for gas, milk and other products. Consumers don't need higher prices for phone calls too, especially when these higher rates represent a blatant giveaway to four large corporations.

I am aware that the long distance companies and others that sell pre-paid calling cards have weighed in with the FCC in an effort to protect their customers' interests in this manner. It is now time for the FCC to weigh in on the side of consumers and show the Bell companies the door on this issue.

Sincerely,

*Ruth Wang, Virginia*

ccs: Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy  
Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner Kevin J. Martin  
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein  
Senator *Allen*  
Senator *Warner*

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*Cynthia L. ...* MA

ccs: Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy  
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Commissioner Kevin J. Martin  
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein  
Senator *Kerry*  
Senator *Kennedy*

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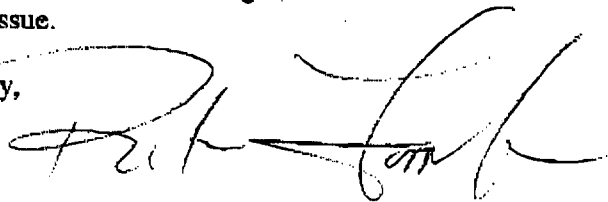
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*Maureen Moore*  
*N. Anderson*  
*Ma*

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Commissioner Kevin J. Martin  
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein  
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Wai Lan, MA

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Senator *Kennedy*

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RE: WC Docket No. 03-133

Dear Chairman Powell and Commissioners Copps, Abernathy, Martin, and Adelstein:

I am writing to ask that the FCC not impose new hidden charges and fees on prepaid calling card services.

Minorities, lower-income families, senior citizens, immigrants, college students and military families rely upon calling card services for a variety of needs. Many of these consumers do not have the credit, bank accounts, or surplus cash to pay a large deposit for local telephone service. For these consumers, a prepaid card may be the only option they have to stay connected – to make phone calls to look for a job, for affordable housing, make a doctor's appointment, or stay in touch with family and friends. These cards offer convenience and predictable costs.

In economically disadvantaged areas, consumers literally risk being disconnected if the prices of these cards increase. Prepaid calling cards are indispensable for these and other consumer groups because they are an affordable alternative to regular and wireless telephone services.

But such price hikes are precisely what the FCC will do if it inflicts new "in-state" access charges and other fees on pre-paid cards. The fees would funnel directly to large local telephone companies while the burden would fall squarely upon those consumers that can least afford to bear it. Adding access charges and fees will substantially increase the cost of providing pre-paid cards at affordable prices, jeopardizing the savings provided by these cards.

Please stop any effort to raise the costs of pre-paid calling cards on consumers by deciding that these services are not subject to exorbitant new access charges and other fees.

Sincerely,

*Lugrid Delate Turvey*  
*Massachusetts*

ccs: Senator *Kennedy*  
Senator *Kerry*

July 16, 2004

Chairman Michael Powell  
Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy  
Commissioner Kevin Martin  
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein  
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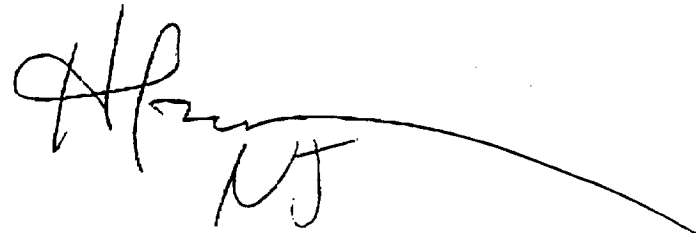
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Please stop any effort to raise the costs of pre-paid calling cards on consumers by deciding that these services are not subject to exorbitant new access charges and other fees.

Sincerely,



ccs: Senator *Corzine*  
Senator *Lautenberg*



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Commissioner Kevin Martin  
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein  
Federal Communications Commission  
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RE: WC Docket No. 03-133

Dear Chairman Powell and Commissioners:

The FCC should **not** impose new access charges and fees upon prepaid calling cards. If you move to increase the cost of these cards, you will simply drive up the cost for minority or disadvantaged individuals to stay in touch in their communities.

Asian-Americans, including Chinese-Americans, are among the fastest adopters of pre-paid cards. Ten percent of Asian-American households have used them, and this number is growing. Moreover, the affordability of pre-paid cards is of the utmost importance to low- and fixed-income consumers, since they offer an easy, economical way to stay in touch with friends and relatives across the country.

With other goods like gas and milk rising these days, we should not now be faced with rising telephone costs as well. In particular, many low-income households who are on fixed incomes depend upon prepaid service because they cannot meet the credit rating or hefty deposit requirements that local phone companies insist upon before getting a phone. With prepaid cards, consumers can make calls from payphones or the telephones of family members and neighbors. They can use these cards to stay "connected" as they look for jobs, hunt for housing, or schedule many of the other daily appointments that we all have.

I simply find it unimaginable that the FCC would impose new charges and fees on these cards. Some of the nation's largest local telephone companies would be the biggest recipients of such charges. **The FCC should stand up for consumers and make sure that these charges will not apply to prepaid calling cards.**

Sincerely,

ccs:

Senator

Senator

*Corzine*  
*Minnola*  
*Lautenberg*  
*Randolph, N.J. 07864*

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Sincerely,

*Virginia L. Ng*  
*OCA - New Jersey*

ccs:

Senator  
Senator

*Cortez*  
*Laurenberg*

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*U. J.*

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*Jean Chin, M.A.*

ccs: Senator *Kennedy*  
Senator *Kerry*

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*Harry Chin, MA*

ccs: Senator *Kennedy*  
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*Det Ching Ma*

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*Daniel Chung*  
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ccs: Senator *Kennedy*  
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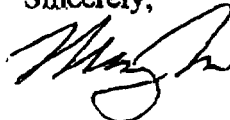
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State of MASSACHUSETTS

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July 16, 2004

Chairman Michael Powell  
Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy  
Commissioner Kevin Martin  
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: WC Docket No. 03-133

Dear Chairman Powell and Commissioners Copps, Abernathy, Martin, and Adelstein:

I am writing to ask that the FCC not impose new hidden charges and fees on prepaid calling card services.

Minorities, lower-income families, senior citizens, immigrants, college students and military families rely upon calling card services for a variety of needs. Many of these consumers do not have the credit, bank accounts, or surplus cash to pay a large deposit for local telephone service. For these consumers, a prepaid card may be the only option they have to stay connected – to make phone calls to look for a job, for affordable housing, make a doctor's appointment, or stay in touch with family and friends. These cards offer convenience and predictable costs.

In economically disadvantaged areas, consumers literally risk being disconnected if the prices of these cards increase. Prepaid calling cards are indispensable for these and other consumer groups because they are an affordable alternative to regular and wireless telephone services.

But such price hikes are precisely what the FCC will do if it inflicts new "in-state" access charges and other fees on pre-paid cards. The fees would funnel directly to large local telephone companies while the burden would fall squarely upon those consumers that can least afford to bear it. Adding access charges and fees will substantially increase the cost of providing pre-paid cards at affordable prices, jeopardizing the savings provided by these cards.

Please stop any effort to raise the costs of pre-paid calling cards on consumers by deciding that these services are not subject to exorbitant new access charges and other fees.

Sincerely,

*Steven Yuen*  
Boston, MA

ccs: Senator *Kennedy*  
Senator *Kerry*

July 16, 2004

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Sincerely,

ccs: Senator Kennedy  
Senator Kerry

Diana Wong - Pellegrino  
BOSTON, MA

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Sincerely,

*Holimah Farah - MA*

ccs: Senator *Kennedy*  
Senator *Kerry*

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I am writing to add my voice to the growing number of groups and individuals opposed to efforts by the local Bell telephone companies to circumvent current rules on calls placed with a pre-paid calling card. If they succeed, it will result in higher rates – in many cases, dramatically higher rates – for consumers who place the calls. As you approach your work on this docket, I implore you to keep the needs of consumers in mind rather than the pleadings of the four Bell companies.

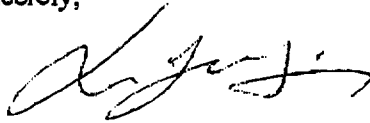
The Bell companies want to target those calls in which a caller uses a pre-paid calling card and dials a toll-free number, along with his or her PIN. The caller, who may be in Virginia, for example, is connected to a "platform" in another state – let's say in Nebraska. From this "platform," he or she hears a message about a company, non-profit or person. The caller then dials the telephone number of someone in Virginia. Current rules, as well as common sense, state that this represents two calls, one from Virginia to Nebraska and one from Nebraska to Virginia. Both calls are subject to interstate access charges because there is a call to Nebraska and then a separate call to Virginia.

But the Bell companies want to treat this as a single in-state call so they can levy exorbitant in-state access charges. Such fees have no relationship whatsoever to the Bell companies' actual costs, which are only a fraction of what they want to charge consumers.

Prices are already rising for gas, milk and other products. Consumers don't need higher prices for phone calls too, especially when these higher rates represent a blatant giveaway to four large corporations.

I am aware that the long distance companies and others that sell pre-paid calling cards have weighed in with the FCC in an effort to protect their customers' interests in this manner. It is now time for the FCC to weigh in on the side of consumers and show the Bell companies the door on this issue.

Sincerely,

 Angel Lane  
MASS.

ccs: Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy  
Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner Kevin J. Martin  
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein  
Senator *Kennedy*  
Senator *Kerry*

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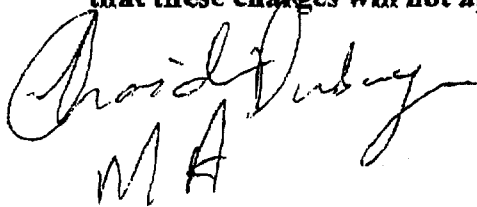
Dear Chairman Powell and Commissioners:

The FCC should not impose new access charges and fees upon prepaid calling cards. If you move to increase the cost of these cards, you will simply drive up the cost for minority or disadvantaged individuals to stay in touch in their communities.

Asian-Americans, including Chinese-Americans, are among the fastest adopters of pre-paid cards. Ten percent of Asian-American households have used them, and this number is growing. Moreover, the affordability of pre-paid cards is of the utmost importance to low- and fixed-income consumers, since they offer an easy, economical way to stay in touch with friends and relatives across the country.

With other goods like gas and milk rising these days, we should not now be faced with rising telephone costs as well. In particular, many low-income households who are on fixed incomes depend upon prepaid service because they cannot meet the credit rating or hefty deposit requirements that local phone companies insist upon before getting a phone. With prepaid cards, consumers can make calls from payphones or the telephones of family members and neighbors. They can use these cards to stay "connected" as they look for jobs, hunt for housing, or schedule many of the other daily appointments that we all have.

I simply find it unimaginable that the FCC would impose new charges and fees on these cards. Some of the nation's largest local telephone companies would be the biggest recipients of such charges. **The FCC should stand up for consumers and make sure that these charges will not apply to prepaid calling cards.**



MA

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Senator Kerry

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Please stop any effort to raise the costs of pre-paid calling cards on consumers by *deciding that these services are not subject to exorbitant new access charges and other fees.*

Sincerely,

*Therese Gray*  
*Maryland*  
*OEA-NOVA Chapter*

ccs: Senator *Mikulski*  
Senator *Sarbanes*

July 16, 2004

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Sincerely,



MD. U.S.A

ccs:

Senator  
Senator



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Sincerely,

Chuck King  
OCA, NY

ccs: Senator *Schumer*  
Senator *Clinton*



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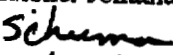
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New York

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Senator   
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